

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION YY

March 4, 2010, Introduced by Reps. Opsommer, Bolger, Lund, Calley, Kurtz, Marleau, DeShazor, Wayne Schmidt, Rick Jones, Moore, Booher, Pavlov, Agema, Meekhof, Tyler, Pearce, Lori, Genetski, Daley, Kowall, Stamas, Haveman, McMillin, Paul Scott and Rogers and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the state constitution of 1963, by adding section 15a to article IV, to create a joint federalism commission to examine the constitutionality of certain actions by the federal government.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Michigan, That the following amendment to the state constitution of 1963, to create a joint federalism commission to examine the constitutionality of certain actions by the federal government, is proposed, agreed to, and submitted to the people of the state:

## ARTICLE IV

**SEC. 15A. (1) THE JOINT FEDERALISM COMMISSION IS CREATED**

1     WITHIN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

2             (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

3             (A) FIVE SENATORS APPOINTED BY THE SENATE MAJORITY LEADER IN A  
4     MANNER THAT PROPORTIONALLY REFLECTS THE CAUCUS AFFILIATIONS OF THE  
5     CHAMBER AND INCLUDES AT LEAST TWO MEMBERS FROM THE SENATE JUDICIARY  
6     COMMITTEE. THE SENATE MAJORITY LEADER, THE SENATE MINORITY LEADER,  
7     THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY FLOOR LEADERS OF THE SENATE, AND THE  
8     SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE SHALL NOT BE APPOINTED TO THE  
9     COMMISSION.

10            (B) FIVE REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
11    OF REPRESENTATIVES IN A MANNER THAT PROPORTIONALLY REFLECTS THE  
12    CAUCUS AFFILIATIONS OF THE CHAMBER AND INCLUDES AT LEAST TWO  
13    MEMBERS FROM THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. THE SPEAKER OF THE  
14    HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF  
15    REPRESENTATIVES, THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY FLOOR LEADERS OF THE  
16    HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE OF THE HOUSE  
17    OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL NOT BE APPOINTED TO THE COMMISSION.

18            (C) THE GOVERNOR AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL EACH APPOINT  
19    ONE NONVOTING MEMBER WHO SHALL ATTEND COMMISSION MEETINGS AND  
20    PROVIDE INSIGHT AND OPINIONS FROM THOSE OFFICES.

21            (3) THE MEMBERS FIRST APPOINTED TO THE COMMISSION SHALL BE  
22    APPOINTED WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.

23            (4) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL SERVE FOR A PERIOD OF TWO  
24    YEARS OR THE REMAINDER OF THEIR TERM OF OFFICE, WHICHEVER IS LESS.  
25    A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SHALL DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF HIS OR HER  
26    POSITION IN A NONPARTISAN MANNER, WITH GOOD FAITH, AND WITH THAT

1 DEGREE OF DILIGENCE, CARE, AND SKILL THAT AN ORDINARILY PRUDENT  
2 PERSON WOULD EXERCISE UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN A LIKE  
3 POSITION.

4 (5) IF A VACANCY OCCURS ON THE COMMISSION, THE MEMBER SHALL BE  
5 REPLACED IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT.

6 (6) THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE CALLED BY THE  
7 SENATE MAJORITY LEADER NOT LATER THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE  
8 DATE OF THIS SECTION. AT THE FIRST MEETING, THE COMMISSION SHALL  
9 ELECT FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS CO-CHAIRPERSONS FROM EACH HOUSE WHO  
10 SHALL SERVE AS COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON ON AN ALTERNATING MONTHLY  
11 BASIS, AS WELL AS OTHER OFFICERS AS IT CONSIDERS NECESSARY OR  
12 APPROPRIATE. AFTER THE FIRST MEETING, THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET FOR  
13 AT LEAST 10 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS PER YEAR. THE ACTING  
14 CHAIRPERSON MAY CALL ONE ADDITIONAL MEETING PER MONTH. A  
15 REPLACEMENT MEETING MAY BE CALLED IF A QUORUM IS NOT PRESENT AT A  
16 MEETING.

17 (7) FIVE OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION CONSTITUTE A QUORUM  
18 FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS AT A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION. A  
19 MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT ARE REQUIRED FOR OFFICIAL ACTION OF  
20 THE COMMISSION WHEN A QUORUM IS PRESENT. A MEMBER WHO MISSES MORE  
21 THAN TWO REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS IN A YEAR SHALL BE REPLACED  
22 WITHIN THIRTY DAYS.

23 (8) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL SERVE WITHOUT  
24 COMPENSATION. HOWEVER, MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION MAY BE REIMBURSED  
25 FOR REASONABLE AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE  
26 OF THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES AS MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SUBJECT TO  
27 AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS.

1           (9) THE COMMISSION SHALL MONITOR ACTIONS OR PROPOSED ACTIONS  
2 OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TOWARD THIS STATE THAT REQUIRE OR WOULD  
3 REQUIRE THE STATE OR A STATE OFFICER TO ENACT OR ENFORCE A  
4 PROVISION OF FEDERAL LAW THAT VIOLATES THE STATE CONSTITUTION OF  
5 1963 OR THAT LIES OUTSIDE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ENUMERATED  
6 POWERS AND INTRUDES ON THE SOVEREIGNTY RESERVED TO THE STATES BY  
7 THE NINTH AND TENTH AMENDMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION,  
8 OR WHERE THE STATE CAN BE DENIED ORDINARILY AVAILABLE FEDERAL  
9 FUNDING FOR NOT ADOPTING CERTAIN LAWS OR REGULATIONS. THE  
10 COMMISSION SHALL ALSO MONITOR MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT, MEMORANDA OF  
11 UNDERSTANDING, COMPACTS, OR OTHER SIMILAR BINDING AGREEMENTS WITH A  
12 NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION OR UNIT OF GOVERNMENT LOCATED OUTSIDE  
13 THIS STATE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
14 OR ITS AGENTS.

15           (10) THE COMMISSION SHALL STUDY AND CONSIDER THE  
16 CONSTITUTIONALITY OF SPECIFIC ACTS, ORDERS, LAWS, STATUTES,  
17 REGULATIONS, MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT, MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING,  
18 RULES, AND OTHER ACTIONS BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INCLUDING THE  
19 LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE, AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES AS DETERMINED BY A  
20 VOTE OF THE COMMISSION. A DETERMINATION ON THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF  
21 SUCH ACTIONS MAY BE VOTED UPON AT ANY SUBSEQUENT COMMISSION MEETING  
22 DURING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION. IF A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF  
23 REPRESENTATIVES OR SENATE WHO IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION  
24 OBTAINS THE SIGNATURES FROM ONE HALF OF THE MEMBERS FROM THE  
25 MEMBER'S HOUSE OF THE LEGISLATURE ON A PETITION STATING THAT AN  
26 IDENTIFIED ACTION OR PENDING ACTION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS  
27 UNCONSTITUTIONAL, THE COMMISSION SHALL STUDY THE ISSUE AND VOTE

1 UPON ITS CONSTITUTIONALITY WITHIN A 90-DAY PERIOD. A MEMBER OF THE  
2 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR SENATE SHALL ONLY PETITION THE  
3 COMMISSION IN SUCH A MANNER ONCE PER LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

4 (11) IF AT ANY TIME THE COMMISSION FINDS AN ACTION BY THE  
5 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT VIOLATES OR IS IN CONFLICT WITH THE UNITED  
6 STATES CONSTITUTION OR USURPS THE POWERS RESERVED TO THE STATES,  
7 THE MAJORITY VOTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL INTRODUCE A  
8 BILL OR BILLS TO DECLARE THE FEDERAL ACTION NULL AND VOID AND  
9 UNENFORCEABLE AS IT APPLIES TO THIS STATE. THE BILL OR BILLS SHALL  
10 BYPASS ALL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND BE SENT DIRECTLY TO  
11 THE FLOOR CALENDAR FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ORIGINATING HOUSE BY A  
12 RECORD ROLL CALL VOTE WITHIN 10 SESSION DAYS OR AT LEAST FIVE DAYS  
13 BEFORE THE END OF SESSION IF FEWER THAN 10 SESSION DAYS REMAIN.  
14 UPON PASSAGE OF THE BILL BY THE ORIGINATING HOUSE, THE BILL SHALL  
15 BE SENT TO THE OPPOSITE HOUSE AND DIRECTLY TO THE FLOOR CALENDAR  
16 FOR A RECORD ROLL CALL VOTE BY THE OPPOSITE HOUSE WITHIN 10 SESSION  
17 DAYS OR AT LEAST FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE END OF SESSION IF FEWER THAN  
18 10 SESSION DAYS REMAIN. THE BILL OR BILLS MAY REQUIRE ACTION ON THE  
19 PART OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, WHO, IF REQUESTED BY EITHER HOUSE OF  
20 THE LEGISLATURE, SHALL INTERVENE AND APPEAR FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS  
21 STATE IN THE SUPREME COURT OR ANY OTHER COURT OR TRIBUNAL.

22 (12) THE COMMISSION SHALL MONITOR AND EXAMINE ALL MEMORANDA OF  
23 UNDERSTANDING, MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT, COMPACTS, OR SIMILAR BINDING  
24 AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THIS STATE AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, OTHER  
25 UNITS OF GOVERNMENT LOCATED OUTSIDE THIS STATE, OR NONGOVERNMENTAL  
26 ORGANIZATIONS. PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR ALL SUCH AGREEMENTS MUST BE  
27 FORWARDED TO THE COMMISSION AND FORMALLY RECEIVED. THE COMMISSION

1 MAY REJECT OR APPROVE THAT LANGUAGE WITHIN 90 DAYS. THOSE  
2 AGREEMENTS SHALL NOT BE LEGALLY ENTERED INTO OR HOLD THE FORCE OF  
3 LAW UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION OR 90  
4 DAYS HAVE PASSED WITHOUT BEING FORMALLY REJECTED BY THE COMMISSION.

5 (13) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PREVENT ANY  
6 LEGISLATOR FROM INTRODUCING LEGISLATION ON ANY ISSUE THAT GOES  
7 THROUGH THE NORMAL LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

8 Resolved further, That the foregoing amendment shall be  
9 submitted to the people of the state at the next general election  
10 in the manner provided by law.